



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

MICHAEL KNAPP

**STATEMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER MIKE KNAPP
REGARDING RACIST GRAFFITI IN THE UPCOUNTY**

JANUARY 11, 2006

I am outraged by the horrid graffiti that was scrawled on a number of Upcounty schools and churches this week. These acts are heinous and small-minded, and such racism and bigotry are an affront to all decent citizens. It will not be tolerated, and the County is rightly treating these acts as hate crimes.

There is no place in our society for these hateful actions and display of intolerance. As we prepare to honor the memory and message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., later this month, we must reaffirm our community's commitment to the broad diversity that makes the Upcounty and Montgomery County a great place to live, and to make it clear that these actions are completely unacceptable.

While Dr. King's dream of peace and harmony might, at times, appear tantalizingly close, the actions of what we hope are only a few narrow-minded individuals are an unfortunate reminder that we still have much work to do to make his dream a reality. We in the Upcounty draw great strength and solace not only from our diversity, but also from our mutual sense of community. These atrocious acts are an offense to all of us, and we will stand together against such crimes and those who commit them.

I encourage any citizen who has any information about these crimes to call the county's hate crime tip line at (866) 411-TIPS.

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